

09/88943U

JC03 Rec'd PCT/PTL 11 JUL 2001

St. 115103

35 24

ABSTRACT

The invention relates to therapies for (auto)immune diseases. Synthesis or presence of apoptotic activity in cells causing or related to (auto)immune diseases, such as synoviocytes in rheumatoid arthritis, will result in the induction of apoptosis. The invention also relates to gene-delivery vehicles, which comprise nucleic acid molecules encoding apoptosis-inducing proteins with apoptin-like activity.